

wires interconnecting the amplifier and the speaker assemblies is cumbersome as the connection leads must be carried with the apparatus and of course the separation of the speaker assemblies is limited by the length of the connection leads. The inconvenience will generally preclude arrangement of the system to produce a stereophonic sound field in outdoor locations. The attaching cords will also preclude temporary relocation of the transmitter assembly or control unit to provide at hand convenience of control for the operator. [Emphasis added]

In addition, every embodiment discloses one or more remote speakers which are not connected to the transmitter by any wires. Figure 1 discloses two speaker assemblies 22, two transmitters 20, two transmitting aerials 21 and two receiving aerials 23. There are no wires. Figure 2 illustrates how the components are housed into a three part assembly including "transmitter assembly 9" (col. 4, ll. 13-14) and speakers 22. Figures 4 and 6 illustrate an embodiment in which one speaker 42 is integral (i.e., not separable from) with transmitter assembly 9a. The second speaker (again labeled 22), when detached is only in wireless communication with assembly 9a via aerials 21a and 23. See Figure 4. Figure 5 relates to four remote, wireless speakers. Finally, Figure 7 relates to two remote speakers where the wireless connection is via infrared emitting diodes 35. See col. 5, ll. 61-62.

Saunders does not disclose "a personal audio device which is normally listed to with headphones" or any structure which reads on such personal audio device. Certainly the housing (not specifically labeled) of transmitter assembly 9 (Figures 2 and 7), or transmitter assembly 9a (Figure 6), could be characterized as "first compartment". However, the disclosed cassette player or digital audio disc are not personal audio devices, but components hard wired into and integral with transmitter 9. As is evident from col. 3, ll. 38-39 the signal means 12 are either "integral or remote". The remote

would be, for instance, an FM station. Integral would be, for instance, a cassette player. Figure 2 illustrates an integral radio receiver 30 and an integral cassette player 31. Similarly, though not labeled, Figure 6 illustrates an integral cassette player. In contrast with Saunders, U.S. patent No. 6,712,249, while not prior art, discloses a compartment for a personal audio device normally listened to with headphones.

In addition to the foregoing, Saunders does disclose "electrical connectors", but this is not the same as Applicant's wires. These connectors are simply contacts on the exterior of the housings for transmitter 9 and speakers 22 and are only used when all three units are attached to each other. See col. 4, ll. 37-42:

Electrical connectors may be provided for directly connecting transmitter assembly 9 to reproduction assemblies 22 for transmission of signal and/or power for use or recharging **when assemblies are attached to each other**, contained within framework or housing as referred to above. [Emphasis added.]

See, also, col. 5, ll. 24-30:

In another embodiment, the transmitter assembly 9 and the reproducing assemblies 22 may be equipped with external contacts which connect with contacts provided in a cradle in which the assemblies rest and from which the batteries are recharged when the cradles are connected to a suitable power supply.

Finally, the modification of Saunders wireless system of 1990 based on a telephone wire take-up designed some 35 years earlier is not suggested by the references. To the contrary the references, particularly Saunders, teach away from such a combination. No one ordinarily skilled in the art reading Saunders would conclude that wires connecting an audio device to remote speakers was desirable. The whole purpose of Saunders is to avoid wires. Further, no one ordinarily skilled in the art would consider Bellmer relevant to stereo equipment, let alone stereo equipment where the speakers are

remote from the transmitter. Neither reference suggests Applicant's combination. The only suggestion for such a combination comes from Applicant's disclosure.

In addition to the foregoing, neither reference discloses the structure recited on either claims 11 or 12.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that claims 9-11 are in condition for allowance. If the Primary Examiner has any questions with regard to the foregoing he is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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